

Northern Virginia and life-changing services to the children and families being served.

HONORING JOHN HOPE FRANKLIN

SPEECH OF

**HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS**

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, April 21, 2009*

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 320, a resolution that honors the life and accomplishments of one of the most prolific and well-respected chroniclers of America's torturous racial odyssey, John Hope Franklin who passed away on March 25, 2009, at the age of 94.

Born in 1915, in Rentiesville, Oklahoma, Dr. Franklin came from a humble and equally tragic background. His grandfather had been a slave, and his family lost everything in the Tulsa race riot of 1921. However, it was his background of having faced racial horrors firsthand that brought his academic work to the forefront and cemented his reputation among academics, politicians and civil rights figures as an inestimable historian.

John Hope Franklin attended Fisk University and received his master's and doctoral degrees in history from Harvard University. Shortly after graduating from Harvard, Dr. Franklin became widely known as a pioneer in the field of African American history. He published his first book in 1943 entitled, *The Free Negro in North Carolina, 1790–1860*.

Dr. Franklin enjoyed an academic career full of highlights, fellowships, research publications, and honorary degrees. In fact, Dr. Franklin would publish another 20 books in his lifetime and his research helped future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall win the landmark ruling in *Brown vs. Board of Education*. It is these accomplishments that helped pave the way both for other Blacks and for the field of African American studies, which began to blossom on American campuses in the 1960s.

I join President Barack Obama in his insightful observation about the impact of Dr. Franklin's life: "Because of the life John Hope Franklin lived, the public service he rendered, and the scholarship that was the mark of his distinguished career, we all have a richer understanding of who we are as Americans and our journey as a people."

In closing, we are reminded that, in addition to his commitment to academics, Dr. Franklin was a dedicated family man. He was married to Aurelia Whittington, his college sweetheart for nearly 60 years before she passed away in 1999.

To their son, John Whittington Franklin, may the special memories that you created together and the many words of wisdom Dr. Franklin gave you be sources of comfort and strength, now and in the days to come.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 44TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SELMA TO MONTGOMERY CIVIL RIGHTS MARCHES

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize March 20 as the 44th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery marches. These historic marches had a profound affect on the voting rights of African Americans throughout the Nation. It is only fitting that the brave individuals who endured brutal physical violence, mental anguish, and often public humiliation in order to secure their voting rights be recognized by this body.

From the pulpit of Brown Chapel, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., issued a call to action after numerous attempts to enfranchise the black citizens of Selma came to a halt. Over the next several weeks, the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Coalition and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference expanded their operations to register black voters in Selma and the surrounding area. At a voting rights protest on February 18th, Jimmie Lee Jackson was shot while attempting to protect his mother and grandfather. Jackson's death prompted Mr. James Bevels of the SCLC to call for a march from Selma to Montgomery. This demonstration of character and faith took place on March 7, 1965. As the peaceful protestors approached the Edmund Pettus Bridge, they were greeted by the Sheriff Department and their clubs, tear gas and bull whips. We remember this day as Bloody Sunday.

Local photographers and television crews captured the brutality of Bloody Sunday, casting the issue into the national spotlight. Their images of cruelty rallied popular support for the cause of the protestors and set the stage for the second march, which was to occur on March 9th. However, protestors hit a stumbling block, when a restraining order was issued preventing the march. Dr. King led a group of 2500 protestors to the Edmund Pettus Bridge where he held a short prayer; before turning the crowd back, so as to respect the rule of law. It is on March 21, 1965 that we see a successful unimpeded march from Selma to Montgomery Alabama. Under the protection of Federal and State soldiers, FBI agents, and U.S. Marshals, a group of near 8,000 protestors set out from Selma to march for 5 days and 4 nights down Jefferson Davis Highway until they reached the Alabama state capitol. Upon their arrival, the number of protestors swelled to 25,000. This march had a profound impact on public opinion and just 5 months after its conclusion, President Lyndon Johnson signed into law the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

I am confident that there will always be those who boldly defy oppression and rebuke tyranny at all costs. One March day, Dr. Martin Luther King asked, "How long will prejudice blind the visions of men, darken their understanding and, drive bright-eyed wisdom from her sacred throne?" Dr. King answered his question, saying, "... Not long, because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." It is this spirit that we must

cherish. Those who decided to command their own destiny in Selma, Alabama in March of 1965 embody this spirit, and it is my great honor to commemorate their efforts.

CONGRATULATIONS: KIWANIS CLUB OF GORHAM, MAINE

**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of Gorham, Maine for acknowledging the courage and sacrifices of the children of Maine's military families through their program entitled "Operation Tribute".

Kiwanis is an organization dedicated to service to children and youth through initiatives intended to improve the quality of life of children in communities around the world. Currently, Kiwanis has over 500,000 members internationally, representing 96 countries with 34 clubs in Maine.

On July 17, 2007, the Kiwanis Club of Gorham, later joined by the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine, launched Operation Holiday Cheer, a program to provide a holiday gift to each participating child of Maine's military families, including, Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Reserves and National Guard. Over 9,000 children in Maine have a parent serving in the military.

In 2007, the Kiwanis acquired, wrapped, and distributed over 8,000 gifts to children in 140 cities and towns throughout the state of Maine. Included with each gift was a handwritten note thanking the child and his or her family which read, "On behalf of the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine and the people of the State of Maine, we would like to offer you this token of our appreciation for your sacrifice. You are the child of a Maine military family and the bravery that you show every day by sharing your parent to help protect our country is being recognized and honored. You should be extremely proud of your service to our country and you should know that we, the Kiwanis and the people of Maine, stand proudly and beside you. We wish you and your family a Happy Holiday Season."

In 2008, the Kiwanis built on the incredible success of Operation Holiday Cheer and expanded the program throughout New England and New York. Their efforts—and once again their success—were astounding. Operation Holiday Cheer raised over \$650,000 and distributed over 23,000 holiday gifts to children of military families.

In January 2009, Operation Holiday Cheer renamed itself "Operation Tribute" to better reflect its mission of providing tribute to the children of military families.

I extend my deepest appreciation to the Kiwanis Clubs of Maine for their thoughtfulness in paying tribute—and bringing cheer—to the lives of thousands of children in Maine, New York and all of New England.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. ALLEN  
"ALI" CAYIR

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate Mr. Allen "Ali" Cayir of Chino Hills, California for being awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor.

Established in 1986 by the National Ethnic Coalition of Organizations, Inc. (NECO), the Ellis Island Medal of Honor pays tribute to our nation's immigrant heritage, as well as individual achievement. This medal is awarded to U.S. citizens from various ethnic backgrounds who exemplify outstanding qualities in both their personal and professional lives, while continuing to preserve the richness of their particular heritage.

A native of Turkey with an engineering degree from Istanbul Technical University, Mr. Cayir arrived in New York in 1980 with plans to begin a new life in Southern California. In 1989, he founded Transtech Engineering, Inc., which today is a multi-million dollar enterprise that provides professional and technical expertise to governmental agencies, educational institutions and the private development sector.

In addition to Mr. Cayir's professional success, he is an extremely active part of his community. His philanthropic contributions include diverse organizations such as Tools for Education at California State University, restoration work at Mission San Juan Capistrano and United Way.

Throughout his life, Mr. Cayir has demonstrated his commitment to community service as well as a passion to preserve and celebrate ethnic diversity. I am proud to honor Mr. Cayir's achievements and congratulate him on his receiving this prestigious award.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. BERNICE  
MCGRAIL FOR HER SERVICE TO  
THE TOWN OF CLINTON, MASSA-  
CHUSETTS

**HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Bernice McGrail, an extraordinary woman who has devoted fully thirty-six years to the children of the Clinton, Massachusetts Public School System as a member of the School Committee. Today, a reception is being held in Bernice's honor so that the legions of former students, faculty, administrators and local officials can offer her their good wishes as she ends a remarkable record of public service to her beloved hometown. I regret that I am not able to attend today's reception to personally express my profound gratitude, respect and admiration to Bernice. However, I did want to submit these heartfelt words of appreciation into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD so that her immeasurable contributions to the development of generations of young people will be forever remembered in the annals of this great institution.

Bernice McGrail's tenure on the Clinton School Committee is not only noteworthy for

its longevity but also for the quality of the service she rendered. For Bernice, the job of serving on the school committee did not begin and end with the weekly public meetings. In painstaking detail, she reviewed all of the school department correspondence, meeting minutes, curriculum proposals and staffing recommendations. Bernice's knowledge of the school department budget is unrivaled and when combined with her dogged determination she was an especially effective advocate for the programs she vigorously supported. In addition to doing the difficult committee work, Bernice was also a constant presence at all of the numerous school social functions and activities. From graduations, to football games, to school plays and dances, Bernice never missed an opportunity to show her pride in the achievements of the school children. Her warmth and sense of humor have endeared her to so many people over the course of nearly four decades in elected office that Bernice is widely regarded as a political force of nature. Her support for any local initiative is prized and her endorsement of any candidate for elected office is coveted. I, for one, am eternally grateful for the loyal friendship, unwavering support and thoughtful advice Bernice has provided me during my career in Congress.

After thirty-six years of tireless dedication, Bernice McGrail is leaving a legacy of selfless public service that will not soon be equaled. She has made an indelible imprint on the Clinton Public School System and helped shape a promising future for an untold number of its students. Madam Speaker, there is no greater gift than that. I wish Bernice and her family continued good health and happiness and kindly ask that the United States Congress publicly acknowledge her exceptional service to the Town of Clinton, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the United States of America.

IN RECOGNITION OF WOMEN'S  
HISTORY MONTH

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I wish to take a moment to recognize the month of March as Women's History Month. In our not-so-distant past, women could not vote, own property or maintain wages. Women were not expected to think independently of their husbands, and their work was limited to the household. But even when considered second class citizens, it was our mothers, daughters and sisters who prepared the next generation of Americans for the challenges that lay ahead. As Kofi Annan famously said, "When women thrive, all of society benefits, and succeeding generations are given a better start in life."

Without the American woman's devotion to society, our nation would not be the same. Countless women disguised themselves as men during the Revolutionary War to join the fight for independence. While their husbands, brothers and fathers fought the war abroad, women answered the call by working in factories, sending the allied forces to victory in WWII. Today, American women of every color

and background protect our nation at home and abroad by serving in our Armed Forces. Parents tell their children that women can be anything they dream of—soldiers, lawyers, doctors, teachers, and mothers—without doubt or hesitation.

Chicago's own women have contributed to their communities in significant ways. Carol Moseley-Braun, the first black female senator, attended the University of Illinois at Chicago and the University of Chicago Law School. Ms. Moseley-Braun was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1992 where she introduced several bills that influenced education policy. Prior to becoming senator, she served as a member of the House of Representatives for ten years. Carol Moseley-Braun is recognized for her efforts in education reform and the years she dedicated to serving the state of Illinois. She is truly an example for our young women.

Michelle Obama, our first black First Lady, has contributed greatly to the city of Chicago and to her country. Mrs. Obama, a graduate of Princeton University and Harvard Law, is an extraordinary example of grace and success for all women. She proves that women can do it all—have a high-powered career, be a devoted mother and wife, contribute to her community, and even campaign. As an advocate for national service and helping working women balance family and career, the First Lady continues to show that there is no limit to what a woman can do.

I salute the women who have sacrificed so much to serve our country. Each woman benefits our society in her own way, and whether an artist or a doctor, a teacher or a lawyer, a mother or a soldier every woman's success encourages future generations of young girls and women to follow their dreams. I am proud to recognize March as Women's History Month in our great nation.

IN HONOR OF 307TH BOMB GROUP/  
WING MACDILL/KADENA ERA  
(1946-1954)

**HON. ELTON GALLEGLY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, April 27, 2009*

Mr. GALLEGLY. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the 307th Bomb Group/Wing (1946-1954), which is holding its 14th reunion this week in Tampa, Florida.

The 307th Bombardment Group rose from the reorganization of the U.S. Army Air Forces after World War II and the deactivation on August 6, 1946, of the 498th Bombardment Group.

As the initial SAC Bomb Group, the 307th was first tasked with developing tactics, operating procedures and training requirements to engage in anti-submarine and sea search operations. The high priority given their task also gave them priority in recruiting personnel, training and equipment. As a result, while the 307th was assigned 13 B-29 aircraft when it was instituted, it had 30 B-29s a month later.

The 307th was busy for the next few years but it was the outbreak of the Korean War that tested its mettle. In the summer of 1950, the 307th with 31 B-29s deployed from Florida's MacDill Air Force Base to Kadena Air Base in Okinawa and on August 8 began bombing runs on North Korea.